

Michaud Encourages Mainers to Participate in Census

Tuesday, April 13 2010

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WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud encouraged Mainers to mail back their Census forms. According to the latest Census figures, Maine's participation rate is currently falling short of the 2000 count. Details on counties in Maine's Second Congressional District can be found below.

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For those who have not received their form for whatever reason, have lost it or need help, the Census recommends calling its toll free phone number at 1-866-872-6868 or visiting its website for more information or to find a local questionnaire assistance center.

“Many people don't realize it, but the Census directly affects how federal funding is distributed,” said Michaud. “Allocation of federal dollars, including critical money for our roads and schools, depends on accurate Census data. That's why it is so important for rural areas to stand up and be counted. These numbers are critical for Washington to make sure that policies are reflective of our communities. Only if enough Mainers participate in the census and tell the federal government about ourselves will we get the funding and the recognition our state deserves.”

The attached table shows the Census Mail Participation Rate for Maine and each of its counties. The first column shows the final mail back participation rate in Census 2000, and the second column shows Maine's current participation rate as of April 13, 2010.

“It's not too late to mail back forms and be counted,” said Michaud.

There's still time to fill out the form and mail it back by April 16. According to the Census, it costs the government just 42 cents to receive a questionnaire back in the mail, but cost taxpayers \$57 if a census taker has to go out to a house to collect the same information. If every household mailed back their census form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of the Census and save \$1.5 billion.

Paying for Health Insurance Reform

Final Participation Rate
2000

Participation Rate as of
April 13, 2010

Maine

65

63

Androscoggin County

71

70

Aroostook County

67

64

Franklin County

67

44

Hancock County

51

48

Kennebec County

64

68

Oxford County

58

58

Penobscot County

70

66

Piscataquis County

46

Somerset County

62

54

Waldo County

59

59

Washington County

46

* Some counties, often predominantly rural areas enumerated through alternative operations, fall outside the mail-back universe, and do not appear on this list. A small number of counties have entered the mail-back universe since 2000, often because of development or new borders. These will have Take 10 Mail Participation rates, but no 2000 participation rate. In these cases, the state rate may serve as a useful comparison or goal.

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